

The State Apartments will be open for the reception of Company coming to Court at two o'clock.

LATHOM,
Lord Chamberlain.

India Office, February 4, 1898.

THE following General Order, dated 31st December, 1897, publishing corrections in Brigadier-General Meiklejohn's Despatch of the 13th August, 1897 (published in the London Gazette of the 5th November, 1897), has been received from the Government of India:—

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

Fort William, the 31st December, 1897.

FIELD OPERATIONS.

MALAKAND.

No. 1430.—THE following corrections are made to the Malakand Despatches, published in G. G. O. No. 1089 of the 1st October, 1897:—

Paragraph 9 of Brigadier-General Meiklejohn's Despatch is reconstructed as follows:—

"On the right flank the Buddhist road had been secured by the 45th (Rattray's) Sikhs under Lieutenant-Colonel McRae, who had, on the first alarm being sounded, despatched Major Taylor, with a few sepoy, to secure the gorge where the road reaches the top of the pass. Lieutenant-Colonel McRae followed immediately with some more men and joined Major Taylor, and leaving a small party as a connecting link. Lieutenant-Colonel McRae, with Major Taylor and some twenty men, advanced to the gorge, and almost immediately encountered the head of the enemy's column, numbering several hundred men, who were creeping silently up the Buddhist road. They opened a very hot fire on them, and the enemy at once broke into yells and screams and tried to rush them."

Paragraph 15 of Brigadier-General Meiklejohn's Despatch, line 8, after "24th Punjab Infantry" add "and Sappers."

Under heading "45th (Rattray's) Sikhs," line 2, for "29th" substitute "30th," and in line 5 for "and 28th" read "28th and 29th."

India Office, February 5, 1898.

THE following General Order, dated 31st December, 1897, publishing a Despatch from Major-General G. C. Bird, C.B., regarding the operations of the Tochi Field Force, has been received from the Government of India:—

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

Fort William, the 31st December, 1897.

TOCHI.

No. 1432.—THE Right Honourable the Governor-General in Council is pleased to direct the publication of the subjoined letter from the Adjutant-General in India, submitting a Despatch from Major-General G. C. Bird, C.B., Commanding the Tochi Field Force, describing the operations of that Force from June to November last.

The Field Force has, under Major-General Bird, fully carried out the objects of the expedition, and the Governor-General in Council, in concurrence with His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, desires to express his high appreciation of the discipline, resolution, and patient endurance displayed by all ranks under the severe trials to which they have been exposed.

From Major-General G. de C. Morton, C.B., Adjutant-General in India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department—(No. 2552-F, dated Fort William, the 17th December, 1897).

I HAVE the honour, by direction of the Commander-in-Chief, to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a Despatch from Major-General G. C. Bird, C.B., Commanding the Tochi Field Force.

2. This force was despatched to hold the Tochi Valley and to punish the sections of the Darwesh Khel Waziris concerned in the treacherous attack on the Political Officer's escort on the 10th June, 1897. The force has accomplished the object for which it was detailed, and the tribesmen have submitted to the terms imposed by the Government of India. Although practically unopposed by the enemy, the duties devolving on the troops have been of an unusually trying nature owing to the unhealthiness of the climate.

3. Amidst much sickness, which has resulted in a heavy death-roll, the good discipline, the endurance, and the soldierly qualities of all ranks have been most marked, and are, in the opinion of the Commander-in-Chief, deserving of high commendation.

4. His Excellency would draw attention to the excellent work which the Medical Department is reported to have performed during the operations, and to the good service rendered by the other departments of the force and by the officers whose names are mentioned in the Despatch.

5. I am desired to add that the Commander-in-Chief considers much credit is due to Major-General Bird for the manner in which he has conducted the operations committed to his charge.

From Major-General G. Corrie Bird, C.B., Commanding the Tochi Field Force, to the Adjutant-General in India—(No. 2365-A, dated Camp Datta Khel, the 25th November, 1897).

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India, the following report of the operations of the Tochi Field Force.

2. The object with which the Force was sent up was to punish the Madda Khel section of the Darwesh Khel Waziris concerned in the attack on the Political Officer's escort at Maizar on the 10th June, 1897. On that occasion out of a force composed of 12 sabres, two mountain guns, and 300 rifles, with 6 British officers, the losses sustained amounted to 3 British officers killed, and the remaining 3 wounded (two of whom have since died), one Native officer killed, 22 non-commissioned officers and men killed, and 25 wounded.

I arrived at Bannu on the 21st June and assumed command. The force was composed as follows:—

1st Brigade.

Commanding:—Brigadier-General C. C. Egerton, C.B., D.S.O.

2nd Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

1st Sikh Infantry, Punjab Frontier Force.

1st Punjab Infantry, Punjab Frontier Force.

33rd (Punjabi Mahomedan), Bengal Infantry.

One squadron, 1st Punjab Cavalry, Punjab Frontier Force.

6 guns, No. 3 (Peshawar) Mountain Battery, Punjab Frontier Force.